

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 of the originally-filed specification as follows:

As stated above, the grate 20 has a plurality of openings 46 wherein an opening 46 is positioned between bars 44. None of the openings, however, are provided in the solid energy receptor portion 37 of the grate 20. The exact number of openings 46 varies with the design parameters of the grate 20. Additionally, the size or length of the openings 46 varies depending upon their location in the grate 20. For example, in one embodiment an opening 46 in a central region of the grate 20 is larger than an opening 46 in a peripheral region of the grate 20. Although shown as having a generally elongated configuration, the shape of the openings 46 varies with the design parameters of the grate 20. Thus, while the openings 46 have a rounded edge 54 as shown in FIG. 7, the edge 54 can be linear, jagged or any other shape. Each of the plurality of openings 46 have an axis that is aligned vertically and extend through the entire cooking grate to permit convection of heated air from a lower portion of the cooking chamber to an upper portion of the cooking chamber.